

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The consolidation of wealth and power has always led to the stagnation of ideas, injustice and does not represent a democratic society. The media must be diversified, locally based, and responsive to the communities it serves. The airwaves belong to the people, so a system of broadcast licencing should reflect the general business model that it represents; there are 5,000,000 "small businesses" with less than 500 employees, there are 17,000 firms with 500 or more employees. There is no economy of scale currently in the media, if we look at this ratio; 294/1, 294 small businesses to every large "one".

As a small business owner, it is too expensive to advertise with these large media companies, that makes for an unfair market place, where only the biggest get their name out in front of the consumer !!! I am a subscriber to satellite service, with over 200 channels available, nothing local, and on most occasions, nothing I want to spend time watching... however, we have a newer independent radio station in town, it's great !!! and all the Clear Channel stations are challenged to keep up, they are always coping this station. So don't tell me bigger is better, the facts prove otherwise.